

Introduced by Senator Hollingsworth

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section 1348.5 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to the Colorado river, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 994, as introduced, Hollingsworth. Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, an initiative measure that was approved by the voters at the November 5, 2002, statewide general election, authorizes the appropriation of \$50,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources to meet state obligations for regulatory requirements related to California's allocation of water supplies from the Colorado River.

This bill would appropriate those funds to the Wildlife Conservation Board for projects approved by the Department of Water Resources to mitigate environmental impacts associated with the sale or transfer of Colorado River Water, subject to a determination by the board, and if other requirements are met, for other purposes that meet the requirements of that provision of the bond act. The bill would authorize the board, subject to the approval of the department, to enter into contracts to purchase water from willing sellers to mitigate environmental impacts associated with the sale or transfer of Colorado River Water.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1348.5 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

1348.5. The board, subject to the approval of the Department of Water Resources, may enter into contracts to purchase water from willing sellers to mitigate environmental impacts associated with the sale or transfer of Colorado River water.

SEC. 2. (a) The sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 to the Wildlife Conservation Board for projects approved by the Department of Water Resources to mitigate environmental impacts associated with the sale or transfer of Colorado River water, if the Wildlife Conservation Board determines that that expenditure meets the requirements of Section 79568 of the Water Code.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the Wildlife Conservation Board may expend any funds appropriated pursuant to subdivision (a) for any purpose that meets the requirements of Section 79568 of the Water Code if either of the following applies:

(1) The funds are not otherwise encumbered or expended on January 1, 2018.

(2) The Wildlife Conservation Board determines that the state and federal government have adopted a Salton Sea restoration plan.